

ozonizing either aerated aqueous suspension withdrawn from the aeration tank or a part of the separated sludge, the ozonizing taking place at a pH of 5 or lower and a greater amount of biosludge being ozonized and converted into BOD components than excess sludge generated in the bioreactor; and recycling either ~~the~~ ozonized aerated aqueous suspension or the ozonized part of the separated sludge back to the aeration tank for aerobic biological treatment.

12. (Amended) A process for aerobic biological treatment of an aqueous organic waste comprising the steps of:

introducing the aqueous organic waste into an aeration tank;

aerating the aqueous organic waste in the aeration tank in the presence of a biosludge composed essentially of aerobic microorganisms to form ~~an~~ aerated aqueous suspension;

withdrawing aerated aqueous suspension from the aeration tank and introducing it into a membrane separation unit;

subjecting the aerated aqueous suspension in the membrane separation unit to membrane separation to form a permeated liquid and a concentrated sludge containing the biosludge;

withdrawing the permeated liquid from the process as treated water;

recycling at least a portion of the concentrated sludge back to the aeration tank;

ozonizing either aerated aqueous suspension withdrawn from the aeration tank or a part of the concentrated sludge, the ozonizing taking place at a pH of 5 or lower and a greater amount of biosludge being ozonized and converted into BOD components than excess sludge generated in the bioreactor; and

recycling ~~either the~~ ozonized aerated aqueous suspension or the ozonized part of the concentrated sludge back to the aeration tank for aerobic biological treatment.

REMARKS

Acknowledgement is made of the Examiner's request for a substitute specification. A substitute specification will be